

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:HJFELDMAN:SJP
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
EA - MR. GLEYSTEN
EA - MR. OAKLEY

-----127139 112326Z /62

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 036782

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, SREF, TW

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SHEN'S CALL ON ASST. SEC. HOLBROOKE:
INDOCHINA REFUGEES

1. ROC AMBASSADOR JAMES SHEN CALLED ON EA ASST. SEC. HOLBROOKE FEBRUARY 10 FOR HALF HOUR TOUR D'HORIZON PRIOR TO SHEN'S RETURN TO TAIPEI FOR CONSULTATIONS AND TO ATTEND KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING. AFTER GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ASIAN SITUATION, HOLBROOKE ASKED SHEN TO BRING TO ATTENTION OF HIS GOV'T U.S. CONCERN OVER PROBLEM OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES, PARTICULARLY BOAT CASES. HOLBROOKE NOTED AMBASSADOR UNGER'S RECENT DEMARCHE TO FONMIN SHEN (ABOUT WHICH AMBASSADOR SHEN WAS UNINFORMED) AND CHARACTERIZED FONMIN'S INITIAL RESPONSE AS UNHELPFUL. NOTING THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE PLIGHT
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OF THE REFUGEES, HOLBROOKE WENT OVER THE SEVERAL REASONS WHY WE BELIEVE ROC SHOULD PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM.

2. AMBASSADOR SHEN RECITED IN FAMILIAR TERMS REASONS WHY ROC IS RELUCTANT TO BECOME ENGAGED, WHICH

HOLBROOKE AND OTHER DEPTOFFS AT MEETING ANSWERED IN

STRAIGHTFORWARD FACTUAL TERMS. IN CONCLUSION, HOLBROOKE STRESSED IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH THIS ISSUE IS VIEWED BY ADMINISTRATION AND BY CONGRESS, NOTING THAT SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS AND STAFFERS HAVE ALREADY ASKED VERY POINTEDLY WHY, SINCE SO MANY OF THE REFUGEES ARE ETHNIC CHINESE, ROC IS NOT DOING MORE. SHEN PROMISED TO BRING MATTER TO ATTENTION OF SENIOR MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

3. FOR TAIPEI: HAVING NOW RAISED THIS MATTER AT HIGH LEVEL IN BOTH TAIPEI AND WASHINGTON, WE ARE WONDERING WHAT OTHER STEPS WE MIGHT TAKE TO INDUCE A FAVORABLE ROC DECISION. WE HAVE ALREADY MADE OUR CONCERN AND FACT OF DEMARCHES KNOWN TO ROC PRESS CORPS HERE. WE DO NOT EXPECT THEM TO FILE NEWS STORIES ON THE DEMARCHES, BUT BELIEVE THERE WILL BE FEEDBACK WHICH COULD BE HELPFUL. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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